

RMA Operations Committee
January 19 – 20, 2005

Present: Mike “Hoss” Hostetler; Ken Kerr; Jim Krugman; Bill Graepler; Steve Eckert; Doug Alexander; Marc Mullenix; Bill Hahnenberg; Steve Hart; Larry Trapp; Sherry Bauer; Dick Spiess; Dave Carter; Darryl Ausborn; Mike Frary; Rich Lasko; Jim Fletcher; Andy Parker; Pete Blume; Joe Lowe; Sue Shirts.

January 19th – The meeting began with introductions. Dave Carter provided an update from RMCG regarding the NMAC letter on IMT configurations. While RMCG doesn’t like the direction provided in the letter, they are requesting that the Operations Committee provide two team configurations – one configuration that will respond to within Area dispatches, one to respond to out of Area dispatches. Clarification was obtained that our Geographic Area includes both the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin Areas for the Type 1 IMT’s. The three ICs from our Area submitted a letter regarding the new direction on team configuration from NMAC. The ICs would like leadership from RMCG in carrying their objections forward to the National level. After much discussion on this subject, a decision was made that the ICs would take the rest of the day to work up their team configurations and come back in the morning to finish up the discussion.

Review of last meeting’s minutes and Action Log. Jim K. and Sue S. had a meeting with FEMA and invited them to the Spring meeting. Jim K. will coordinate with FEMA to ensure they receive the information, and will suggest that FEMA include EMAC in their discussion/presentation (Marc Mullenix suggested this and can offer clarification). Sue will talk with Doug Wagner about getting a link for the Operations Committee on the RMACC web page.

S-420 Command and General Staff discussion – the RMA just hosted an S-420 session, and the Ops Committee has some concerns regarding the application submission and review process. Some of the applications were missing vital information, some included biographies of the students, some did not; and there was just general concern over the process and the attempts to ensure qualified candidates attended. Scott McDermid, Chair of the Training Committee, was invited to join us in the morning for a discussion on this issue. Scott is in town for other business, and agreed to meet with us.

Engines and Water Tenders – Dick Spiess handed out an issue paper. The RMA has established 3 operators as our standard for Types 3, 4, 5, and 6 engines. When orders are placed, the teams and dispatch offices need to ensure that the RMA requirement for 3 operators is included. The incident may specifically order engines meeting the National standard of 2 personnel if doing so does not compromise safety. (See Dick’s handout for further information.) Humvees as engines will meet Type 7 standards and will require 2 operators. There is some question as to what standard is required for water tenders. There is a group meeting next week to discuss this. Further information is needed.

Structure Protection Specialist (STPS) – Dick submitted a draft taskbook and issue paper for STPS. (See handout for further information.)

Type 3 Incident organizations – a national effort is currently underway to establish minimum qualifications for Type 3 organizations, however the RMA would like to go ahead with a recommendation to RMCG for consideration. There are already training and qualifications standards for Type 3 Incident Commander, Safety Officer and Information Officer, so all we need to work on is PSC, LSC, OSC and FSC. The discussion generated the following recommendations for minimum qualifications:

OSC – DIVS
LSC – SPUL, FACL, or GSUL
PSC – SITL or RESL
FSC – COST or TIME

Action Item: Dick will write an issue paper to submit to RMCG for their consideration. (Overachiever Dick submitted his paper the following morning 1/20, and it was adopted for submission to RMCG.)

RMACC Update – Jim Fletcher

- Dee Fogelquist will be coming in to RMACC on a 120 day detail as the Assistant Center Manager.
- The 2005 Mobilization Guide update process has already begun. Please review the assignments given at the November meeting for who is to participate on the review and submit any updates/changes to Jim Fletcher by March 1st.
- Chapter 50 of the Mob Guide will be issued as a separate booklet, and RMACC will try to incorporate the request to include each IMT's Command and General Staff names and contact numbers.
- RMACC has been asked to develop a guide with regard to shutting a RAWS station down until maintenance is done – that draft guide will be submitted to the Ops Committee for review.
- Dispatch is going to test a “global ordering” concept this year to be used only during Preparedness Levels 1 and 2 – Jim is available to answer any questions.
- A question was asked as an issue from the IHC's for Jim to talk with the dispatch centers when ordering resources from out of area – last year and in several years prior, some of the dispatch centers ordered resources from other geographic areas that were further away from the RMA resources, and there is a lot of objection to that practice. Jim will encourage the dispatch centers to again take a look at what makes sense when ordering resources.
- Another question from the IHC's – can RMACC support and accept allowing our IHC's to drive to an incident within our geographic area? RMACC has no problem with that. **Action Item: Jim K. and Shane will write an issue paper on this for RMCG approval. Due 1/28.**

Miscellaneous Stuff

Type 2 IMT rotation – in the past, concern has been expressed by the Type 2 IMTs on how their rotation has worked and whether something needed to be done to even out the number of assignments. Pete and Marc agreed that everything seems to be working at this point, and there is no further need for discussion at this point. Jim Fletcher confirmed that the Type 1 IMT will be notified if they come up on call outside the normal rotation.

Follow up on discussion from November meeting regarding some AD's having trouble getting signed up – if any AD who is a member of an IMT is having difficulty, have them contact a member of RMCG for assistance.

Trainees and mentees – some feel that even though a trainee is assigned to an IMT, they should be able to take advantage of any assignment they can. IC's object to this concept, but are willing to notify RMACC if a trainee is available for assignment outside the IMT rotation. Mentees should be allowed to take whatever assignment they can in order to either prepare for S-520 or get their required training assignments as a result of S-520.

Operating Guide – Hoss will resend to everyone so they can review for discussion and update at the April meeting.

Marc gave an update on the Great Plains Wildfire College – 667 students attended this year. It was a very successful week.

Steve E. gave an update on Kermit Johnson – he's doing better and is at the Craig Rehab facility. He should be released from there on 2/4/05.

Joe Lowe gave an update on pending job openings in South Dakota.

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Quote for the day: "We can do what we can do, but we can't do it all." Bill Graepler, 1/20/05

Discussion on S-420 process with Scott McDermid, Chair person of the Training Committee, and Kim Bang, GATR. Last year, the Forest Service requested that all nominations for S-420 and S-520 go through their Regional Training and Qualifications Specialist, while the other agencies allowed the nominations to go through their respective Zone Reps, and then all were sent to the GATR. The GATR then forwards the nominations to the Ops Committee for prioritization. This process is outlined on the flow chart that was agreed to by the Ops Committee and the Training Committee. The nominations received by the Ops Committee this year from the GATR for prioritization were incomplete and some didn't include biographies of the applicants. A better process needs to be in place to ensure that this doesn't continue, and that the applicants know they are responsible for providing all information needed. Each agency would now like for the nomination forms to be submitted to a person designated by that agency, and then

the nominations would be sent to the GATR. The GATR should not accept any application that does not come through the designee for that agency. Those people designated are:

South Dakota – Joe Lowe
Colorado State – Steve Hart
Wyoming State – Ray Weidenhaft
BIA – Regional FMO

NPS – Doug Alexander
USFS – Sue Shirts
FWS – R6 Training Specialist
BLM – Steve Eckert

Action Item: Steve E. and Jim K. will draft a letter to the Training Committee outlining this new process. Due 1/28.

Action Item: Sue will add the process of updating the trainee list during our April meetings to the recurring action log.

Action Item: Hoss will add a cover letter to the IC's letter to RMCG regarding the new team configuration issues. Due 1/28.

Team configuration discussion:

Pete's list of applications was reviewed. Each IC submitted their proposal for the two configurations requested by RMCG, and each out of Area team was reviewed to ensure that if AD's were listed there were no agency personnel being overlooked.

Type 1 IMT

See Hart's list for IMT members. Trainees are as follows:

Janell Ray	FSC	Priority 1
Guy Keene	AOBD	Priority 2
Taylor Stephens	STPS	Priority 3
Beth Anderson	TIME	Priority 4

S-520 Mentees are as follows:

Pete Blume	ICT1	Priority 5
Dave Carter	OSC1	Priority 6
Dave Clement	LSC1	Priority 7
Bruce Short	PSC1	Priority 8
Vern Bentley	SOF1	Priority 9

Team A IMT

See Mullenix' list. In Area list stays the same as current, including trainees.

Team B IMT

See Blume's list. Pete would prefer to stay "and 6 trainees" and negotiate at dispatch for who's available.

Fire Use Team – IC trainee selection pending. Fred Bird is no longer available as IC, Ed Duncan from North Ops is available to train. RMCG will have a conference call later today to select an IC trainee for the FUMT. (Note – result of conference call is Bill Hahnenberg will be the IC(T) for the FUMT).

The list for Priority Trainees has not been consolidated as yet because Pete didn't have all the applications. **Action Item: Pete will consolidate an electronic list and send it to the Committee for review by 1/28.** A conference call is scheduled for February 15, 2005 to discuss. The Committee confirmed a prior decision that a new trainee list will be generated every year, but the alternates list will roll over from to year, with trainees who have been signed off added to it.

Pete reminded everyone that the Agency Reps on the Committee need to send a letter to the applicants thanking them for applying or congratulating them on being selected for this last year of the IMT rotation.

Darryl Ausborn will speak to Tom Corbin regarding arrangement for a BIA representative to the Ops Committee (vice Don Mitchell).

The next Ops Committee meeting will be April 4th, during the week of the Spring meeting.

Minutes submitted by Sue Shirts, Admin support.